



LECCIONES DE ESPAÑOL

Lesson 1: The Alphabet Lección 1: El Alfabeto

The alphabet of the Spanish language has 27 letters, actually. The alphabet had 29 letters until 1995, when the **Real Academia Española de la Lengua (RAE)** or Spanish Royal Academy of the Language “deleted” from the alphabet the letters “**ch - che**” and “**ll - elle**”. Now, ch and ll are not individual letters, just the combination or the union of the letters **c+h** and **l+l**.

🔊 *El Alfabeto: Listen!*

NAME	UPPERCASE	LOWERCASE	NAME	UPPERCASE	LOWERCASE
a	A	a	eñe	Ñ	ñ
be	B	b	o	O	o
ce	C	c	pe	P	p
de	D	d	qu	Q	q
e	E	e	erre	R	r
efe	F	f	ese	S	s
ge	G	g	te	T	t
hache	H	h	u	U	u
i	I	i	ve	V	v
jota	J	j	doble u	W	w
ka	K	k	equis	X	x
ele	L	l	i griega	Y	y
eme	M	m	zeta	Z	z
ene	N	n			

🔊 *And now, listen and repeat!*

There are 5 vowels, and always have the **same sound**:

A	E	I	O	U
America	Excuse	Irak	Oxygen	Uno
Ana	Enero	India	Honor	Úrsula

🔊 *Listen and repeat!*

And there is a **semi-vowel**, the **Y** OR **i griega**, which sometimes sounds like **i** and/or like **doble ele** or **lle**.

LL	I
Yegua	Y (conjunction and)
Yunque	Ana y José
Yucatán	

Maybe you notice that in the alphabet there is a “strange letter”, called “**eñe**”. This letter was a Spanish invention to represent a sound that exists in other languages:

Language	Letters	Words
French	gn	champagne – Allemagne
Italian	gn	cognome – gnocchi
Portuguese	nh	manhã – Ronaldo
English	ny	canyon

You can get a similar sound of the **eñe** by pronounce **-ny-** or **-ni-** instead of **ñ**.

niño	ninyo	child
pequeño	pequenyo	little
caribeño	caribenio	caribbean
España	Espania	Spain

🌐 *Do you know...?*

What is the difference between the Spanish spoken in Mexico and the Spanish spoken in other countries? –
The intonation.

👂 *Listen to the following text, spoken in Spanish from: 1. Spain; 2. Central America; 3. South America; 4. Mexico.*

El idioma español es actualmente el tercer idioma más hablado en el mundo, sólo después del chino y el inglés. Es el idioma oficial en poco más de veinte países, la mayoría de ellos americanos, aunque también es un idioma hablado en algunas zonas de África (como Marruecos o Guinea Ecuatorial). El Instituto Cervantes se encarga de la difusión del idioma español en el mundo.

✉ Remember to send you comments, questions or suggestions to buonavita@gmail.com